

Appl. No. 10/681,497
Response of OA of 4/9/2008

Appendix A Claims

1. (Previously presented) In the method for forming lignocellulosic thermoplastic composite products such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which comprises incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said amount of boron-containing fungicide is in the range of from about 3 to about 5 percent by weight of said composite.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said lignocellulosic material is selected from the group consisting of wood, ground rice hulls, kenaf, jute, and coconut shells.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, high-density polyethylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is calcium borate.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 in which said calcium borate is a naturally occurring borate.

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9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is selected from the group consisting of ulexite and colemanite.
10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is boric acid.
11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is selected from a group consisting of zinc borate, calcium borate, boric acid, or mixtures thereof.
12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 in which said calcium borate is colemanite.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said boron-containing fungicide is zinc borate.
15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 in which said thermoplastic material is polyvinyl chloride.
16. (Currently Amended) In the method for forming composite products consisting of a thermoplastic material, a lignocellulosic material, and at least one of the group consisting of a lubricant, a cross-linking agent, a UV stabilizer, a blowing agent, an inhibitor, and a coupling agent such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide selected from the group of zinc borate, synthetic

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calcium borate, colemanite, ulexite, ~~boric acid~~, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.

17. (New) In the method for forming composite products consisting of polyethylene or high density polyethylene, a lignocellulosic material, a coupling agent, a color additive and at least one of the group consisting of an antioxidant, a UV stabilizer, and a lubricant such as to increase their resistance to surface visual impairment caused by mold attack, the improvement which consists of incorporating an amount of a boron-containing fungicide selected from the group of colemanite, ulexite, or mixtures thereof in the range of from about 2 to 12 percent by weight of said composite product prior to forming said composite product.